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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.

The Lodge,
Woodhill Road,
Portishead.

7th June, 1949.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Portishead Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following Report:-

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population	4440
Area	911 acres.
Penny Rate	£132. 9s. 10d.

2. BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

	<u>Portishead.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
Per 1000 Birth Rate	17.5	17.9
Per 1000 Death Rate	4.7	10.8
Maternal Deaths		
Infants under 1 year.	2(total)	

3. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.	41
Whooping Cough.	17
Pneumonia.	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1
Chicken Pox.	1
Tuberculosis Lung.	6
Non Respiratory.	1

4. INFANT WELFARE.

This Centre continues to be well attended and does very good work.

5. NURSING.

District and Midwifery Nursing is carried out by two Queen's Nurses. The work is carried out in a most satisfactory manner. At times the nurses are hard pressed.

6. FIRST AID POST.

The First Aid Post established during the war has continued to function and does most excellent work. Great praise is due to the voluntary staff for their work in the post and also the training of First Aid Nurses in Red Cross work. This Post must be nearly unique in the country.

7. AMBULANCES.

The service is excellent.

8. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During the year ended 31st December, 1948

66 children under 5 years of age had first and second inoculation.
 23 " 5 - 14 years of age had first and second inoculation.
 44 children had third inoculation.

9. WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year nine samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination. Seven of these were from the Public Water Supply at the Welly Bottom pump which works from a shallow well and stream supply. These samples were contaminated and the well was closed. This pump was the only supply for three houses. These houses are now supplied by the main piped supply of the Portishead & District Water Company.

Water Mains. The existing mains are in many cases, old and corroded. The supply is good in quantity but excessively hard. There is of course no plumbo solvent action.

Analysis.

Total Hardness	92 parts per 100,000	= 64.4°
Temporary Hardness	20" " "	= 19.6°
Permanent hardness		= 48.8°
Calcium	76 " "	
Magnesium	16 " "	
Chloride	23 " "	
Ammonia	Nil.	

From this report it will be seen that the degree of hardness is enormous. Although not injurious to health the material damage is considerable. Pipes and boilers get solidified and have to be replaced. Water softeners for this degree of hardness are extremely expensive to maintain. The attention of the Council is drawn to the report of the Ministry of Health Engineer of 22nd November, 1946 on which no action has been taken. This water supply question demands the gravest attention of all concerned. The Council should be deeply interested as they are the largest house owners and therefore the greatest sufferers.

10. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Electric Automatic. The sewers are working satisfactorily. Attention is drawn to the lower level sewers at Albert Road and the Council must remember their obligations at an early date of the discharge at Albert Road being carried further down stream away from the houses.

Housing site sewers have been laid on the West Hill site on the gravity system, and the surface water from the site is discharged into the Welly Bottom. This well will have to be piped at a later date and the line from the Welly to Bristol Road adopted. A diversion in the Church Road axis will be necessary but this will come forward at the time of the Estimate and when roads have been surfaced and new houses built on the estate.

11. HOUSING.

The erection of houses is proceeding and sixteen are well on the way to being finished but supply of material is a hold up. Two war damaged houses, Nos. 21 & 22 Albert Road, are being rebuilt and will be occupied in January, 1949.

HOUSING (CONTD).

	Houses erected during year.		Houses in course of erection.		Conversion to Flats or Dwellings.
	Perm.	Temp.	Perm.	Temp.	
Local Authority.	Nil.	Nil.	18.	Nil.	Nil.
Private Enterprise.	Nil.	Nil.	2.	Nil.	Nil.

Houses required:-

(a) To replace unfit.	30
(b) To abate overcrowding.	45
(c) Where conditions are unsatisfactory e.g. Two families living in same house but not included in (a) and (b).	102
(d) Others.	27

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year, 1948. 204

12. MILK.

(a) Total number of registered dairy farms.	7
(b) Number of Retailers.	6
(c) Number of Producer Retailers in (b).	3
(d) Number of Licenced Pasteurising Plants.	-
(e) Number of Heat Treatment Plants.	-

13. ICE-CREAM.

Number of Premises registered for

(a) Manufacture.	3
(b) Sale.	9

14. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number of Licensed Slaughter Houses in district.	2
Number of Registered Slaughter Houses in district.	2
Number of Slaughter Houses used where Horses are slaughtered for human consumption.	-
Name of any in use under Ministry of Food.	-

All meat is brought into the district from the Ministry of Food at Weston-Super-Mare since 1940 and no Slaughter Houses are in use in this district. The slaughter house of Mr. C.J. Wilmott, High Street, Portishead, is used by the Ministry of Food as a distribution depot.

15. RIVER POLLUTION. No remarks.16. KNACKERS YARDS. None in use.17. FACTORIES AND WORK SHOP ACT, 1937. No remarks.

I thank the Council's Engineer & Surveyor for information on Sewage, water supplies and housing information supplied.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
D.W. BRUCE.
Medical Officer of Health.

